to introduce the Cochin Village Panchayat Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. K. S. Manickam *(Irinjalakkuda).*—I second it.

Motion was put and carried.

The Cochin Usurious Loans Regulation Amendment Bill.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi).*—I move for leave to introduce the Cochin Usurious Loans Regulation Amendment Bill.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Pallippuram).*—I second it.

Motion was put and carried.

RESOLUTIONS (contd.)

13. Speedy execution of approved irrigation schemes (contd.)

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—Government have already investigated about 53 schemes of irrigation in the State. Out of these about 11 schemes were investigated in Chittur. These were mostly for the acquisition of private irrigation systems and the cost of these schemes was about Rs. 8 lakhs.

Government investigated in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk about 4 schemes and these were the Amballur scheme which has already been completed, the improvements to the Manappattu Chira, which have also been completed. These two schemes together protected and irrigated about 2 thousand acres of land. Another scheme in the Taluk was the drainage and navigation canal from the Hill Palace field, that is from Karingochira to the western backwaters. That has been budgetted for this year. We have also investigated and executed the Vellarappaly Lift Irrigation Scheme. That is expected to irrigate about one thousand acres of land. But some improvements to the machinery are urgently called for and until those are done it may not be possible to irrigate as large an acreage as one thousand acres. We are now irrigating about 200 acres of land by that scheme.

In the Mukundapuram Taluk one of the most important of the investigations that have been conducted was the prevention of floods from the Karuvannur river. That was a large scheme and the members would refresh their memory how

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insistent were the demands of the Members of this Council for some sort of protection against floods. It has been the occurrence every year, the devastation of crops by floods from the Karuvannur river. We did a large amount of works in that connection and we have spent about Rs. 75 to 80 thousand and during the last five years there have been no damage due to floods in that area (hear, hear). Another work which we investigated in the Mukundapuram taluk was the diversion of the water of the Kurumali river. That investigation has been completed but the work has not yet been taken up.

In the Trichur Taluk the most important investigation which we made was the construction of a dam at Thannikkudam. Originally we investigated that work for the supply of water to the kole lands. We constructed a dam about 75 feet high which will hold about 1100 cubic feet of water. But the proposal to divert the Chalakkudi river was considered and that scheme had a temporary set back. With the proposal for the supply of water for the Trichur town that scheme was again taken up and the Department had been ordered to reconsider that scheme for the purpose of water supply to the Trichur Taluk alone. It is my belief that this work will be taken up as early as possible. It may be that the scheme can be taken up this year. Then we investigated the same Tannikkudam river for a canal on the right bank. It was held in abeyance pending the construction of the dam at Thannikkudam. We also investigated the diversion of the water from the Manali river and that scheme has also been completed and we have to take it up for execution.

In the Talappilli Taluk we did many improvements to the Chira in the Wadakkancherry river and we have also investigated the diversion of water to the Cheerakkuzhi river which has not been completed but I hope we will be able to put forward the scheme within about two or three months. We also investigated and sent to Government for sanction a scheme for the lift irrigation from lands in Desamangalam. That estimation is under the consideration of the Government now.

In the Chittur Taluk we have done many important works to the existing canal systems and the members would remember that the complaints to the Chittur irrigation system have been also now completely ceased. Those complaints were once a feature of the council proceedings in the earlier years. Thanks to the steady work which we did in the improvement of this system we were able to put forward all the irrigation of the Chittur Taluk in a fairly satisfactory position.

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So it will be seen that among the works investigated there are only two or three works which have to be taken up immediately or which demand early execution and these are the diversion of the waters of the Manali river and the Cheerakuzhi river and one or two works more. The resolution as worded it is impossible for Government to accept. The resolution says that all the works should be taken up expeditiously. Some of the works may be feasible. Others may not be. All the works may not be successful. It will be impossible to accept the Resolution as it stands, but I want to impress upon the House that we have been taking up works as finances permit, works which may be worked successfully.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Pazhayannur).*—May I know whether the Government have any idea of constituting an irrigation Board.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—There is no necessity. In the face of the existing legislation there will be difficulty in constituting the Board.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—So I want to impress upon the House that our policy is the same as the one stated in the Resolution. There is absolutely no difference of opinion regarding that. We are now endeavouring to investigate new schemes and complete them as they are found feasible. So in effect our view is in accord with the views and sentiment expressed in this Resolution.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Are we to understand that out of the 53 schemes investigated only half a dozen have been executed and three or four are ready to be taken up and the rest are not feasible from a financial standpoint.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—Many of them are not feasible.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—May we know how many schemes there are which are financially feasible and what their cost is and the maximum cost of those which are pending execution for want of funds.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—Fifty per cent of the schemes investigated have been completed. That is a very good proportion. Twelve of the schemes are for the acquisition of private anicuts. Most of the works that are not taken up are unremunerative.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—The Hon'ble Member stated that there are only three or four now.

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—In the general speech I only referred to the more important ones. There are many more minor and unimportant schemes also. The Puthur scheme will cost about 80 thousand rupees. Desamangalam 19,000 and Kurumali about 80,000. The estimate has not been prepared with regard to the Cheerakuzhi scheme. We are not taking up the Tahnnikudam scheme which cost about 3½ lakhs. All the schemes cannot be taken up together.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—My position is this. As many schemes as can be taken up should be taken up.

Mr. V. K. Aravindhaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—That is what has been done and what we are doing.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—With this difference that is without reference to the financial question.

Mr. V. K. Aravindhaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—If the member's position is that we should take up works irrespective of considerations of finance I must say that we oppose the Resolution. Our action now is in perfect accord with the sentiments of the Resolution. We have spent now considerable amounts of money for the improvements to the Karuvannur river and the Enamakka dam in a short space of time. The devastation caused by floods has been removed by giving irrigation fecilities. Even this year we are taking up another big dam work at Thannikkudam.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—We had a fairly long discussion. I have made my position clear. We are really anxious that as many works as are of an urgent nature should be taken up as far as possible. The Hon'ble Member said that they would take up the Thannikudam scheme. I think that they will charge the amount to the Trichur Municipality.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer).*—That is a scheme for irrigation and water supply.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Since they can make some profit out of it and since these are the means of improving the productivity of land they may charge that amount. I do not press the motion. But I request the Government to consider the urgency of the problem and appoint an irrigation board as contemplated in the Resolution of the Hon'ble Member for Vyttila so that there may be a definite scheme. The Revenue Member says that the Regulation stands in the way. It will only help the Engineering Member. With the hope that the

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Government will pay more attention to the scheme I crave the leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution.

Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn

14. Constitution of an Irrigation Board for the State.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon (*Vyttila*).—"*This Council recommends to the Government that an Irrigation Board for the whole State be immediately constituted.*"

Sir, I was not here when the Resolution of the Hon'ble Member for Oorakam was discussed. I do not know what all transpired. From the remarks made I was led to gather that there has been some legal difficulty to constitute an irrigation board. I shall show that there is no such difficulty.

Deputy President.—That is left to the Government.

Mr. P. Rama Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*).—I second the Resolution.

Mr. K. Achyutha Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—We have introduced a legislation by which an officer is empowered for enquiring into the necessity of irrigation in particular areas. Now suppose a Board is created. If the recommendation of the board will be in conflict with the decision of the express authority under the legislation then difficulties will arise. If they function so that they will not come in conflict with the officer authorised under the Regulation then the matter may be considered. Under the Irrigation Regulation works are divided into three kinds, petty, minor and major works. Wherever it is found that a petty work is necessary then the task of finding funds is on the proprietors. In the case of the others it will be on the Government. Under the Regulation the majority of the land holders can approach the Government with a request to take up an irrigation scheme, whatever its nature and whatever its scope. There is an officer then who must go into the question and find out whether the work is necessary. Suppose a petition has come up and the officer comes to the conclusion that it is necessary, and suppose the irrigation board recommends that it is not necessary. The two recommendations would conflict.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon (*Vyttila*).—I want a Board like the Road Board.

Mr. K. Achyutha Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—If there was a road Regulation certainly difficulties would have cropped

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